

"The Doctrine of Condemnation"

Romans 1:18-3:20

Part 13

Introduction: In our study of the book of Romans we are looking at the conclusion of the Doctrine of Condemnation that is found in Romans 3:9-20. In this section Paul points to the depravity of man. The word "depravity" means "crooked or perverted". In this conclusion Paul shows us that sin has affected every part of our lives. He knew there would be some who would deny that they fit under the three categories of sinners which he pointed to in 1:18-3:8. Paul also knew how deceitful the heart is and it will always try to convince man that he is righteous.

Jeremiah 17:9-10

⁹ *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

¹⁰ *I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*

Man is deceived by his own heart but here in the section before us God searches the heart and he lays bare the true condition and He shows us that sin has impacted every facet of our lives. In this conclusion Paul starts at the head and he sweeps down over the human body to show us man's depravity. Let us quickly review some of what we looked at last week in our study.

Notice Romans 3:9

Here we see that the human race is UNDER sin. The word "SIN" here refers to the "principle of sin" or we could say, "The evil dynamic that works within every person ever born." The idea in this verse is that every person is under the control of sin. We all inherited our sin nature from Adam and because we are born with a sin nature we cannot help but to sin. For someone to claim they never sin is a manifestation of their deceptive heart. Everyone sins because we are all under the principle of sin. This is exactly why EVERY person needs to be saved. We all sin and God requires that all sin must be paid for.

In the next verses Paul knows there would be those who would resist and claim to be righteous so he reaches back to the Old Testament and he points to different verses that show GOD'S description of man.

Notice Romans 3:10

The words "AS IT IS WRITTEN" should silence any argument in which man desires to claim personal righteousness. AS IT IS WRITTEN is a declaration statement saying, "THIS IS WHAT GOD SAYS!" In this verse Paul quotes God's Words as God declares there is NONE that are righteous and then he adds, "NO NOT ONE!" and these words are here to answer the person who claims personal righteousness.

Notice Romans 3:11

There are none who understand which means there are none who understands God. Man cannot know God without God revealing Himself to man.

1 Corinthians 2:14

¹⁴ But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

There are those who claim to be spiritual and claim to know God apart from a relationship with Jesus Christ but they are wrong. They have created in their own minds their own god who they believe operates on their level and so they are deceived. They do not know God nor do they understand anything about Him.

Paul also states in this verse that there is none who seek after God. The Truth is the opposite is true. I want to show you a verse passage that we looked at last week.

Genesis 3:7-8

⁷ And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

⁸ And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

Someone came to me last week and made a very important statement. If Adam and Eve fled and hid from God after walking with Him in the garden how much more do people today desire to flee from God considering the effects of sin over the past 6,000 years? God is the One who pursues man because man will do all he can to escape the Righteousness of God.

John 3:19-20

¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

²⁰ For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

This brings us to where we are in our study tonight.

I. **The Conclusion of the Doctrine of Condemnation**

Romans 3:9-20

Part 2

Notice Romans 3:12

Here in this verse Paul makes three statements.

1. **They are all gone out of the way.**

The idea here is that man has turned aside. He has lost his way because he chooses to take his own path rather than God's path. Eric made a statement at the VBS closing that brings this into view. He said that from the day we are born we are on a path that is taking us away from God.

Isaiah 53:6a

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way;

Let me show you an experience of D. L. Moody.

The great evangelist Dwight L. Moody told of being asked by the warden of a large prison in New York City to speak to the inmates. Because there was no chapel or other suitable or safe place to speak to the group, he preached from a gangway at one end of a large tier of cells, unable to see the face of a single prisoner. After the message he asked permission to talk face-to-face with some of the men through the bars of their cells. He soon discovered that most of the men had not even been listening to his message. When Moody would ask an inmate why he was in prison, the man almost invariably declared his innocence. He would insist that a false witness testified against him, or that he was mistaken for the person who really committed the crime, or that the judge or jury was prejudiced against him, or he would give some other reason he was unjustly incarcerated. Moody said...

"I began to get discouraged, but when I had gotten almost through I found one man with his elbows on his knees and two streams of tears running down his cheeks. I looked in at the little window and said, 'My friend, what is your trouble?' He looked up with despair and remorse on his face and said, 'My sins are more than I can bear.' I said, 'Thank God for that.'"

The evangelist was thankful because he knew that no man is open to God's way until he forsakes his own way, that he will not seek salvation until he admits he is lost.

2. **They have become unprofitable.**

This statement has the idea of fruit that has turned sour. It means to become morally worthless and useless. Man is permanently bad and completely unable to please God in this sinful condition. Man is worthless to worship God in his sinful condition. Let me show you that Old Testament text which Paul is quoting.

Psalm 14:1-3

The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.

² *The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.*

³ ***They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.***

Here in verse 3 is one of the references which Paul uses. Let me show you what Albert Barnes says concerning the word "FILTHY".

"This word in Hebrew means, to become putrid and offensive, like fruit that is spoiled. In Arabic, it is applied to milk that becomes sour. Applied to moral subjects, it means to become corrupt and useless. They are of no value in regard to works of righteousness."

This is the exact opposite of how the self-righteous person sees themselves.

Luke 18:10-12

¹⁰ *Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.*

¹¹ ***The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.***

¹² *I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.*

The Pharisee saw himself as righteous and as a man who could please God with his righteous living. Romans 3:12 completely shatters his self-righteousness and that is exactly why it is here.

3. **There is none that doeth good.**

This statement is one that shocks many people. We hear people all the time declare that this person or that person is such a "GOOD PERSON". Often when unbelievers are presented with the Truth that God will judge all sin and send the unsaved to hell, these people respond by claiming that it does not seem fair that God would send a "GOOD" person to hell. But what they do not understand is that there are NO GOOD PEOPLE. Someone may do good deeds in the sight of others but inside they are corrupt and it is impossible for them to do any works/good deeds that have eternal value.

Isaiah 64:6-7

⁶ *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*

⁷ *And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.*

This completely demolishes man's idea that God will place all of his works upon a set of balances to see if his good works out weigh his bad. There are no good works to place on the balances for there is NONE that doeth good.

Now we come to a section that places man under the x-ray of God's omniscience. In this section we see man is contaminated with sin from head to toe.

Notice Romans 3:13a

When I read this verse, I am reminded of the Words Jesus spoke.

Matthew 12:33-37

³³ *Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.*

³⁴ *O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.*

³⁵ *A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.*

³⁶ *But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.*

³⁷ *For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.*

The mouth reveals what is in the heart.

Notice the words of Ray Pritchard on this verse:

"Our speech has the smell of death about it because there is nothing but death inside us. Is this why we talk about "dirty" jokes and "gutter language?" And is it a coincidence that so many of our "dirty" words have to do with human waste and perverted sex? Is this not a reflection of the decay inside the human heart? Why do we love "dirty" talk? Why do children love trash talk? Because inside your heart is a rotting corpse, and the stench of it comes out of your mouth. Do you doubt that the human mouth is filled with cursing and bitterness? If so, then try this little experiment. Take a walk down the street and punch the first stranger you meet right in the nose. Then pay attention to what comes out of his mouth! (Then run for your life!)"

Let me show you the words of Newell on this verse.

*"God speaks as the all-wise, holy Physician, in diagnosis: Their throat is an open sepulchre. Doctors always insist first on looking down our throats: and we all know that the throat and tongue denote the state of health. There could be nothing more horrible than what we have here: death, decay, moral stench, and that not hidden, but open! Unhidden, unashamed putridity:-thus a holy God describes the throat of every one of us by nature! As Bishop Howe says: "**Emitting the noisome exhalations of a putrid heart.**" We must remember we are here seeing man through God's all-holy eyes."*

Notice Romans 3:13-14

Man's words are deceitful and full of poison. His mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. This is true of every person born into this world. The sad thing is it is still true of believers. Have you ever complained because of the path which God has given you to walk? Have you ever grumbled because of the circumstances which have come into your life which God has permitted? We are all guilty and the reason is because we have sinful corrupt hearts and our mouths are open graves. The wretched stench of death is vented through our lips. Sometimes it is manifest in complaining and sometimes it is manifest in

ways. Gossip is like the poison of a deadly snake. There have probably been more lives destroyed by WORDS of poison than there have been by guns in all the wars that have been fought. Gossip has divided so many families. Slander is also a deadly poison. Slander is when someone uses their words to destroy another person's character. Then there is the sin of backbiting. The list of sins of the mouth is very long. Slander, gossip, complaining, grumbling, cursing, backbiting, lying, deceit, boasting, sarcasm and I am sure there are more. These sins of the mouth are all the manifestations of the corruption in the heart of man. We are all guilty!

Conclusion:

As we study this it is clear why man must be saved. It is clear why his sins must be removed from his account. Can you imagine what heaven would be like if God permitted sin to enter? I suppose it would be just like the world we live in today.

We should be so thankful for the promise of glorified bodies for when we receive glorified bodies we will no longer have a sin nature. Our words will ALWAYS be words that honor and glorify our Lord. But until then we must walk in fellowship with our Lord and be under the control of the Holy Spirit for this is the only means to control the tongue.

Let me leave you with the words of Stedman.

"When man refuses to bend his will to the will of God, it begins to affect his talk. You can tell it in the tone of his voice, in the words he chooses, in the biting sarcasm that comes forth, in the curses and bitterness, in the foulness of the tongue oftentimes, in the jealousy that is evident there."